duties of Establishment Clerks in Dehra Dun Area, Roorkee, Hardwar in P.W.WI office/IOD office|Engineering Office Roorkee etc.;

(by if so, what are their details and 6ince when they have been doing the job of clerks; and

(c) whether they have been paid any incentives for doing the job of higher responsibility and if so, whether these posts can be upgraded/converted into clerical grades and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information as on 1.5.89 is being collected from Northern Railway ana will be laid tan the Table of the Sabha

Closing down of Nuclear Reactors by Russia

872. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA. KANT BHANDARE; Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of President Gorbachov of Soviet flussia from London announcing Soviet Government's intention to stop production of weapon type uranium and closing down of three nuclear reactors in Russia;

(b) if so, what is Government's information about the Soviet President's pronouncement; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto in the context of prospects of world peace?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sit.

'(b) President Gorbachov has announced the Soviet Union's intention to cease production of enriched weapon grade uranium from this year. He has also stated that in addition to the reactor for the production of weapon grade plutonium shut down in 1987, the Soviet Union plans to shut down two other such reactors in 1989 and 1990 without commissioning new units to replace them.

(c) The Governmen have welcomed Preident Gorbachev's announcement. A copy of the statement made by the Official Spokesman on April li, 1989, is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

• Government welcomes President Gorbachov's announcement in London on the 7th April, 1989, of the decision of the Soviet Union to cease the production, from this year, of enriched weapon-grade uranium. This is a major advance towards halting the nuclear arms race. The qualitative significance of this decision goes much beyond the quantities involved.

We hope that the Soviet initiative would lead to all the nuclear weapon states agreeing to a complete cut-off in the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. India has for long advocated the cessation of the production of weapon-grade fissionable material by all the nuclear weapon States as constituting an important step towards halting the nuclear arms race. We have piloted several resolutions on the subject in the UN General Assembly and have included it as an integral part of our three-phase Action Plan for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is a matter of particular satisfaction to us that in his speech in London the leader of one of the most important nuclear weapon States has reiterated the need to do away with the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and to completely eliminate nuclear weapons, the objectives that constitute the very core of India's, disarmament policy, dulr reflected in the Action Plan.